

# **HAMUN 2014**

## **Background Guides**



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**Committee:** Security Council

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### **Topic One:** Peacekeeping in Africa

Welcome to the United Nations Security Council, or UNSC, which is charged with maintenance of international peace and security. UNSC is responsible for the establishment of peacekeeping operations and international sanctions, as well as the authorization of military action through its own resolutions. It is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states. The Security Council held its first session on 17 January 1946. Many African countries, specifically those in West Africa such as Sierra Leone, Guinea-Bissau, and Cote D'Ivoire, are currently emerging from recent conflict and are attempting gradual transitions out of war. These countries continue to face problems such as slow economic recovery, the return of refugees, security sector reform, cooperating with regional institutions, and international community peacekeeping (5). In addition, many terrorists invade African countries, ruthlessly kill civilians, and manipulate government officials.

In early January 2013, France proposed a resolution which deployed approximately 4,000 troops to Mali to expel Islamist militants and other radical groups who attempted to take control of the country. In late April 2013, the U.N. Security Council authorized its peacekeeping force "to use all necessary means" to safely preserve civilians and cultural artifacts (5). On July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, the United Nations Security Council enforced its peacekeeping operations in West Africa with 12,600 members of the U.N. Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MISM) into Mali to aid Malian authorities in revert to constitutional governance and order (2). In Mali, as in many other West African countries, militants banned music, smoking, drinking and watching sports and obliterated historic tombs and shrines. Global leaders feared that militants would turn the area into a terrorist haven, and subsequently sent MISM into Mali until July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

It is imperative that member states confront incidents like these with well-prepared tactics. The United Nations has attempted to launch various peacekeeping operations in the hopes of protecting innocent civilians, but, as evidenced by more recent events such as Boko Haram's violent, abominable abduction of over 200 Nigerian schoolgirls, officials' aid is not up to par. the U.N. *clearly* needs to intensify their peacekeeping missions in order to provide adequate protection for Africa's people (1). Unfathomable numbers of schoolchildren's lives are in grave danger; however, here in the United States of America, we are living in the lap of luxury, so to speak: attending school without worrying about being kidnapped, having heaping, steaming portions overflowing from our plates at all *three* meals, and being well-provided for by our families. Over in Africa, life is not as easy, simple, or fun.

Recent news updates from the U.N. say that, starting on September 15, the U.N.'s peacekeeping force will comprise up to 10,000 military personnel, including 240 military observers and 200 staff officers, and 1,800 police personnel, according to the resolution (3). The resolution also calls for fair government elections starting in February 2015 (4). Currently, dictators and authoritarian rulers who disguise themselves as "democrats" run African society, so each country is providing for the wealthy at the expense of the poor (2). Member states should aim to aid the African people suffering from this violence, poverty, and robbing of basic human

needs. Future peacekeeping operations should include rights to use of the Internet, access to clean water, and protection, especially that of children.

### **Questions to Consider**

1. Should the African governments be solely responsible for its own peacekeeping operations, or is it too corrupt to aid its people?
2. How should the U.N. next approach the lack of proper peacekeeping in African nations?
3. To what extent does the U.N. need to regulate troops, supplies, leaders, etc. in Africa?
4. After how long should the African countries be self-sufficient?
5. What principal issues should be solved in the UNSC's attempt to end the current peacekeeping struggle?
6. What rules and regulations should be enacted to monitor Africa's transition from a war-stricken continent to a peaceful civilization?

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**Committee:** United Nations Security Council

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### **Topic Two: Nuclear Non-Proliferation**

Welcome to the United Nations Security Council! According to the UN Charter, “the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions.”<sup>1</sup> This meeting of the Security Council will address the critical issue of nuclear non-proliferation, which is the effort to prevent the further spread of nuclear weapons throughout the world.

The era of nuclear weapons began in 1945 when the United States used nuclear weapons against Japan at the close of the Second World War. Soon after, the United States and the Soviet Union (the name of the area now known as modern state of Russia) began building up huge stockpiles of nuclear weapons in what came to be known as the Cold War. During the Cold War, three other nations, England, France, and China, also developed nuclear weapons. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, many feared a devastating nuclear war that had the capacity to destroy all civilization.<sup>3</sup> In 1969, President Richard Nixon and his Soviet counterparts began the process of limiting nuclear arms and reducing nuclear tensions by opening negotiations for the 1 and 2 SALT “Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty” treaties.

In 1970, the Non-Proliferation Treaty, or NPT, came into effect. This treaty has been signed by most of the countries around the world. The NPT recognizes five nuclear nations (the United States, the Soviet Union/Russia, China, the United Kingdom and France)<sup>4</sup> and stops all other nations from acquiring nuclear weapons, as well as aids nonnuclear states in the development of civilian nuclear power.<sup>5</sup> The NPT expresses three main “pillars,” which include the following,<sup>2</sup>

1. Non-Proliferation: Non-nuclear weapon states are not allowed and stopped from acquiring nuclear weapons
2. Disarmament: The eventual goal of all states should be to reduce their nuclear weapons stockpiles.
3. The right to peacefully use nuclear technology: All states should be able to use nuclear technology for non-military uses, including energy and medicine.

The NPT demands that the permanent five members of the Security Council (the US, the UK, Russia, China, and France) not help in any way the trade or manufacture of nuclear weapons with any non-nuclear recognized state. It is the responsibility of the signatory states to abide by the regulations set forth by the NPT to ensure its success.

In the 1990s, a number of states began developing nuclear weapons, and it is widely known that today India, Pakistan, North Korea, and Israel all possess nuclear weapons. Although North Korea has signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the other three nations have not. In recent years, it has been feared that other states were trying to acquire nuclear weapons, including Libya, Syria, and most importantly, Iran.<sup>4</sup> The proliferation of nuclear weapons represents one of

the most serious challenges to worldwide peace and security, and so is one of the most important matters for the United Nations Security Council to address.

### Questions to Consider:

1. Should the NPT be revised? In your country's opinion, what provisions should be put into place?
2. Should all countries be considered equal when it comes to nuclear technology?
3. How should we determine when a country is using nuclear technology peacefully and when it is hoping to attain nuclear weapons?
4. What guidelines can be put into place to prevent nuclear proliferation?
5. How should nuclear regulations be enforced?
6. What has your country done to meet its obligations under the guidelines of the Non-Proliferation Treaty?
7. Should there be consequences for countries that do not sign the NPT?

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I recommend you start your research here: <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/npt> and read the Background and History of the treaty section

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**Committee:** Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)

**Chairs:** Aleja Hertzler-McCain and Ashley Willard

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### **Topic One: Human Trafficking**

Welcome to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)! The CCPCJ works to reduce national and international crime and ensure the impartiality of criminal justice systems. One of the topics this committee will focus on is human trafficking, which is often referred to as the modern-day slave trade. Human trafficking means bringing people across borders to take advantage of them and violating their rights to make money. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto defines human trafficking as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force” (7). The three major forms of human trafficking are the trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation, trafficking for forced labor, and trafficking to harvest organs (5). The international community has begun to place increased emphasis on the issue of human trafficking, in part due to the rising numbers of human trafficking cases reported. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported a 27% increase in child trafficking cases between 2008 and 2011 and a 13% increase in adult human trafficking cases (2).

Human trafficking is a violation of human rights. Although not specifically mentioned in the UN’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights, human trafficking would be included where the Declaration states that “men and women have the right to live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression or injustice”. The UN and other organizations dedicate time and resources to prevent this violation, and have taken several crucial steps to combat human trafficking. The International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and several UN organizations such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) created the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UNGIFT) in 2007 to eradicate human trafficking as well as support the major international treaties that pertain to human trafficking (6). One of these treaties was the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime which was adopted in 2000. The Convention was supplemented by the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. This protocol, which entered into force in 2003, is the first international legally binding document that addresses human trafficking (8). Today 90% of the countries in the world have laws that criminalize human trafficking which contrasts strikingly with the less than 50% of countries when the protocol was adopted (3).

The anti-trafficking legislation of many individual countries is catalogued by the Protection Project, which has also collected model laws and action plans (4). The United States of America, for example, has implemented legislation and policies to eliminate human trafficking. The US Department of State presents the US Congress annually with the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report. The report ranks countries into three tiers. Countries who receive a Tier 3 ranking failed to make significant efforts to comply with international human trafficking standards. Among the countries that received Tier 3 rankings in 2013 were Algeria, the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Iran, North Korea, Sudan and Papua New Guinea (9). Human trafficking needs to be addressed by the global community swiftly and effectively to prevent greater violations of human rights. Effective solutions must be utilized by the

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as well as other bodies of the UN. In committee, delegates should consider what kinds of new strategies the United Nations can implement to combat human trafficking. The strategies formed in committee should address prevention of human trafficking as well as rehabilitation programs for victims after they are released. Delegates should also consider what kind of action the international community should take against nations that do not make significant efforts to reduce human trafficking. Delegates should examine the different types of human trafficking and devise solutions that address all types. The committee will examine a wide variety of angles in order to take steps to fully eradicate human trafficking.

### Questions to Consider

1. What kind of action should the international community take to encourage countries that have not made substantial efforts to eliminate human trafficking to make progress?
2. Does your country have substantial problems with human trafficking? If so, how has your country addressed these issues?
3. How do border laws affect the abilities of human traffickers to move their victims?
4. What kind of programs should the United Nations implement to help victims?

If you have any questions at all, please email me at **Aleja.HertzlerMcCain.2017@holton-arms.edu**

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**Committee:** Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)

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## **Topic Two: Combatting Transnational Organized Crime**

Welcome to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The CCPCJ was established in 1992 by the Economic and Social Council as the primary policymaking body of the United Nations for issues relating to crime prevention and criminal justice. This committee will focus primarily on improving our international response to transnational crime and developing strategies for combatting criminal organizations worldwide.

Organized crime, defined as transnational, national, or locally centralized enterprises involved in illegal activity, most prominently for monetary profit, has become an increasingly threatening global phenomenon. Hindering peace and human security, violating human rights, and undermining political, social, economic, and cultural development, organized crime is an issue that threatens every individual nation and demands the attention of our committee (1).

Organized crime directly targets the economic stability of our member nations, as perpetrators manipulate and monopolize financial markets, labor unions, and other traditional industries (2). An estimated \$1 trillion USD of illegal profit is reaped by organized criminal organizations each year, millions of which are obtained through financial scams and stock frauds (2). In 2009, transnational organized crime generated approximately 1.5% of the global GDP (3). As a result of such large-scale criminal activity, legitimate financial systems may be compromised (1).

Of the many manifestations of organized crime, the most lucrative is **drug trafficking**, as global opiate and cocaine markets reach a combined annual worth of \$133 billion. Annual profits from **human trafficking** are estimated to approach \$32 billion, with approximately 2.4 million victims of trafficking at any given time. Recent data has indicated that the scope of the problem may actually be much more drastic. Well-established criminal networks easily **smuggle migrants** across the globe. Smugglers often violate the human rights of their charges, frequently robbing, raping, beating, or abandoning these migrants. This branch of transnational organized criminal activity generates billions of dollars annually (3).

**Natural resource trafficking**, involving the smuggling of raw materials, including those from conflict zones, provides funding for criminal groups. This branch of criminal activity also contributes to deforestation, rural poverty, and climate change. Poachers, who participate in **illegal wildlife trade** by hunting protected animals, target skins and body parts for export to foreign markets. Items such as elephant ivory, rhino horn, and tiger parts can produce \$75 million in criminal profits yearly and as a result, extinction has become a legitimate threat for some species. Another worrisome channel of organized crime is the **sale of fraudulent medicines**, a potentially deadly practice for consumers. Centered in Asia and concealed by the rising legitimate trade of Asian pharmaceuticals, this practice has serious health implications for consumers in desperate need of legitimate drugs. Lastly, **cybercrime** represents a particularly powerful threat because criminals increasingly exploit the Internet to seize private data, access bank accounts, and obtain credit card details, and identity theft alone generates approximately \$1 billion each year (3).

As organized crime takes hold in a nation, it threatens the stability of surrounding regions and ultimately undermines development assistance for less economically advanced nations. Organized criminal groups often work with established local criminals to develop a broader network, a practice which allows for a range of more sophisticated crimes at the local level (3).

In addition, underground organizations introduce drugs into cities and increase violence levels by buying off corrupt officials and maintaining their operations through extortion, intimidation, and murder (2). This increase in violence often turns inner cities dangerous and risks the lives of citizens (3). Countless individuals lose their lives as a direct result of organized crime each year, many falling victim to drug-related violence and firearm fatalities (1, 3). With illicit trades not limited to prostitution, migrant smuggling and human trafficking involved, the issue of organized crime presents itself as severely pressing (2).

On a broader scale, organized crime has become a transnational affair and has developed to macro-economic proportions. Organized crime has reached almost catastrophic levels of corruption, infiltration, and hindrance of a variety of types of national development, while also undermining democratic government. Criminal networks have been forged across borders to form a powerful transnational system capable of evolving to combat the efforts of crime fighters around the globe. Illicit items may now be obtained in one continent, trafficked through another, and ultimately marketed in a third (1). For example, India has become a major transit point for heroin en route to Europe, and experts believe that around 5-10% of the legal opium grown in India is converted to heroin. India is the world's largest producer of both illegal heroin and opiates. Illegal trade routes from India, through South Africa, and eventually terminating in Europe are also utilized for transport of illicit pharmaceuticals such as mandrax and for diamond smuggling (4).

Transnational organized crime is an ever-evolving industry capable of adapting to markets and forging new channels of criminal activity (3). Afflicted regions and threats include African nations that engage in drug trafficking and financial scams, Russian mobsters, Asian crime rings including Japanese Boryokudan and Chinese tongs, and enterprises based in European nations such as Hungary and Romania (2).

To date, the only international convention dealing with organized crime is the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols on Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants, and Trafficking of Firearms. This convention represents UN support for the international community to work together to combat transnational organized crime (1).

Our role as a committee is to build upon this convention and establish additional frameworks for preventing and fighting transnational organized crime. We will build upon the pillars of coordination, education, intelligence and technology, and assistance in order to combat this globally pervasive phenomenon.

### **Questions to Consider**

1. How has your country been affected by organized crime?
2. What types of organized crimes occur in your country?
3. What organized criminal operations exist within your country?
  - a. Who is in charge?
  - b. Who are the victims?
  - c. What other countries are involved?
4. How do you propose to combat these operations?
5. How would you improve upon the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime?

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**Committee:** World Health Organization (WHO)

**Chairs:** Yasmeen Haider and Yasmin Alamdeen

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### **Topic One: Combatting the Spread of Tuberculosis and Revising the “Stop TB Strategy”**

Welcome to the World Health Organization (WHO) committee. This organization was established as a forum where countries can discuss and solve the world’s health-related issues, including persistent problems such as tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS to current epidemics.

*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, a small rod-shaped bacterium, is responsible for one of the world’s most common infectious diseases: tuberculosis. Tuberculosis, better known as TB, commonly enters the body through inhalation and colonizes the lungs. The bacteria are transmitted in the air by droplets from the infected person’s throat and lungs (2). By breathing in TB, a person can easily become colonized; however, not all infected people show symptoms. Individuals that are immunocompromised, or are already affected by another disease such as HIV/AIDS, show symptoms such as coughing, fatigue, weakness, fever, and night sweats. While antibiotic treatment for six months can cure patients, infections can become incredibly severe, involving coughing up sputum and blood. With new multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) strains appearing around the globe, tuberculosis is the second most deadly infectious disease, right behind HIV/AIDS (3).

The sixth Millennium Development Goal addresses the importance of combatting tuberculosis and other diseases. International efforts to decrease the number of deaths include the establishment of World Tuberculosis Day on March 24<sup>th</sup> and particularly the World Health Organization’s “Stop TB Strategy” initiated in 2006. The project was established in 2006 and had six core goals in mind:

1. “Pursue high-quality Directly Observed Therapy Shortcourse (DOTS) expansion and enhancement. DOTS is a five-point package to:
  - a. secure political commitment, with adequate and sustained financing
  - b. ensure early case detection, and diagnosis
  - c. provide standardized treatment with supervision and patient support
  - d. ensure effective drug supply and management and
  - e. monitor and evaluate performance and impact;
2. Address TB-HIV, MDR-TB, and the needs of poor and vulnerable populations;
3. Contribute to health system strengthening based on primary health care;
4. Engage all care providers;
5. Empower people with TB, and communities, through partnership;
6. Enable and promote research (1).”

The “Stop TB Strategy” has the end goal of decreasing the amount of deaths from TB around the globe by 2015, and roughly 22 million lives have been saved by the implementation of this approach. In all, the above points state that those who require treatment will receive it at an affordable cost, those who are not infected will be taught ways to prevent transmission, and all organizations that help provide care or research for TB will be engaged. With the termination of

the plan rapidly approaching, WHO turns to its delegates to begin to plan for the world's future strategy to combat tuberculosis (1).

Health is one of the few worldwide issues that all countries can agree on: it needs to be improved. Although many lives have been saved due to the "Stop TB Strategy," the infection persists and about 95% of TB related deaths occur in middle and low income countries. Affordable treatments, education about TB, and commitment from governments to make combatting TB a priority are key factors in what. It is up to the delegates to reflect upon the "Stop TB Strategy" and create a new, comprehensive course of action from 2015 and beyond in order to successfully control the spread of tuberculosis (3).

### **Questions to Consider**

1. Why did the "Stop TB Strategy" work and what can be improved?
2. How can better healthcare systems be established around the globe, specifically in developing regions?
3. What can be done for developing countries or countries that refuse to take part?
4. Are there any other factors that should be taken into consideration when developing a solution to the tuberculosis problem? Think political, economic, etc.
5. Does your country have its own NGOs or methods of combatting tuberculosis? Can those methods be implemented on an international scale?
6. Should countries that have a high rate of MDR-TB be treated differently?

### **Suggested Links**

Any of the links I used in the background guide are suggested, and the World Health Organization's website is extremely helpful as well.

1. Access the "Stop TB Strategy" here: <http://www.who.int/tb/strategy/en/>
2. Understand Directly Observed Therapy/Treatment Shortcourse (DOTS) here: <http://www.who.int/tb/dots/whatisdots/en/>
3. CIA World Factbook shows basic information on your country – be sure to take a look at the "People and Society" section for your country to see information on infectious disease: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

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**Committee:** World Health Organization (WHO)

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### **Topic Two: Mental Health**

The World Health Organization (WHO) was founded by the United Nations in 1948 to combat disease and improve the health of all people worldwide. This committee will focus specifically on the problem of mental health. Countries worldwide face grave difficulties in treating those who suffer from mental, neurological, and substance abuse disorders. Mental disorders include illnesses such as depression, epilepsy, dementia, substance/alcohol abuse, psychosis, bipolar disorders, autism spectrum disorders, and other developmental disorders. People who suffer from such disorders are often subject to disgrace, discrimination, and human rights violations in society. They may also be denied access to health and educational services because of their disorder (5). People suffering from mental disorders are common in all regions of the world. They are also present in all communities and age groups, proving mental health is a significant issue worldwide. Based on a study from the National Institutes of Health called the “Global Burden of Disease”, in 2010, mental and substance abuse disorders were the leading cause of years lived with disability worldwide and are becoming an increasingly challenging problem to the health systems of developed and developing countries alike (1). Even though mental disorders represent 14% of the global burden of disease, many countries only allocate 2% of their health budgets to mental health. Most of the people affected, 75% of which live in low-income countries, have no access to the help they need (5). The WHO should aim to determine whether mental health should be prioritized as a health hazard and what should be done to treat mental illnesses and spread awareness worldwide.

The WHO has implemented many programs in the past to expand services for mental health. One such program is the WHO Mental Health Gap Action Program (mhGAP) which “aims at scaling up services for mental, neurological and substance use disorders for countries especially with low- and middle-incomes” (5). mhGAP has released an Intervention Guide to help countries implement mhGAP by providing “recommendations to facilitate high quality care at first and second-level facilities by the non-specialist health-care providers in resource-poor settings” (3). The WHO, with the help of the European Union in 2013, worked to implement mhGAP in Ethiopia and Nigeria with the political commitment of both governments towards working to increase services for mental health care (4). The WHO also launched MINDbank, an online database which is part of WHO’s QualityRights campaign. This campaign aims to end human rights violations involving mental health sufferers and facilitate dialogue, advocacy and research, as well as promote reform in these areas with international human rights and best practice standards. MINDbank provides mental health strategies, policies, laws, evaluations, etc. on mental health worldwide (6). Despite all these actions to reduce the lack of mental health care, mental health still remains a pressing issue.

In committee, delegates should aim to decide what, if any, action should be taken to increase the practice of mental health care. They should consider what is in their countries’ best interests. Delegates should come up with legislation that clearly defines the implementation of mental health care in countries lacking mental health facilities, protection against discrimination and abuse of mental health patients, and the establishment of mental health care. They should debate

whether more action is needed to increase mental health care and how that should be done as well as whether the protection of human rights for patients is necessary. Delegates should take into account these factors when developing their ideas so this committee may come up with comprehensive and detailed resolutions on the topic of mental health.

### **Questions to Consider**

1. Should mental health be a priority? If so, how should mental health be prioritized?
2. How should mental health patients be cared for? Should long-term programs be implemented for care, or should family training and awareness be taught in countries?
3. Should there be a uniform policy for mental health care and protection of human rights for mental health patients worldwide, or should individual countries be allowed to implement their own laws on mental health policies and mental health patient human rights?
4. What kind of punishment is needed for people or countries who violate human rights of mental health patients?
5. Should people be made more aware of mental disorders? If so, how should people be informed?

### **Tips on Research**

- Although Wikipedia shouldn't be cited as a source, it can still be used to learn more about your topic before starting research. Also, at the bottom of every Wikipedia article is a list of external links, reference sources and other useful websites to begin your research.
- Check the WHO homepage. The World Health Organization website is designed to teach people about health issues worldwide so take advantage of the website and check what WHO has on mental health.
- If you want news articles, official studies, or other good articles to cite, Google Scholar or <http://search.closeoutfiles.com/all.html> are good, specialized search engines for that.
- One website that would be helpful, especially for this topic, would be: <http://www.mindbank.info/> . This website was used in the background guide, but it provides resources on mental health categorized by country as well as resources from WHO and human rights resources.

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**Committee:** Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

**Chairs:** Alison Richards and Samantha Danshes

**Author:** Alison Richards

### **Topic One: Girls Access to Education**

Welcome to the Committee on the Status of Women. The purpose of this organization is to promote gender equality and help with the advancement of women. In this committee meeting, we will be considering the problem of girls' access to education. Around the world, many girls don't have access to education. In fact, statistics show that only 30% of girls worldwide are getting a secondary education, and girls have far less access to education than boys [2]. There are a number of factors that limit girls' access to education. For example, some cultures and religious traditions discourage the education of girls. Cultures that encourage marriage and early pregnancy often make the education of girls difficult. Sometimes, long distances between school and home makes educating girls a challenge. Why is it important to educate females as well as males? It is well documented that countries that educate both genders equally receive dramatic benefits in their economic and social development [5].

In the year 2000, the United Nations set eight overarching millennium goals to guide its member states over the next fifteen years. Goal 3 speaks specifically to women's education: "Promote gender equality and empower women," and one of this goal's main targets is to "eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education." Through creating these goals, the United Nations demonstrated a commitment to women's education. However, the deadline for these goals were set for the year 2015, and most have yet to be accomplished.

Past international action on the topic of women's education was taken at the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 where the development goals were discussed. There, the committee followed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, created in 1948, which includes an article specifically on education. Article 26 states, "Everyone has the right to an education...Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms." In 1994, a step towards resolving this issue was taken, and in 1995 another step towards equal education was taken in Beijing, China. At the Fourth World Conference on Women the Declaration and Platform for Action states that, "Education is a human right and an essential tool for achieving the goals of equality, development, and peace". The most recent session on the Commission on the Status of Women was March of this year. At the meeting, the millennium development goals progress, involving girls, were discussed [1]. Specifically, the United Nations discussed training women for the workforce [4].

The UN has stated that the education of girls is valid and necessary for societies to succeed, but it is difficult to transform this ideal into reality. Here are some guiding questions to help you research your country's stance on women's education and any actions that they have taken.

### Questions to Consider

1. How has this topic impacted your country? What percentage of girls is educated in your country?
2. Does your country support the education of girls? Why or why not? What has your country done to support the education of girls?
3. What solutions would you propose to increase the education of girls at the primary and secondary level? Is there an existing solution that you can expand on?

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**Committee:** Commission on the Status Women (CSW)

**Chairs:** Ali Richards and Samantha Danshes

**Author:** Samantha Danshes

## **Topic Two: Female Trafficking**

The Commission on the Status of Women is a United Nations organization that is “the principal global policy-making body dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. Every year, representatives of Member States gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide” (7). The CSW is especially concerned about the trafficking in women worldwide. Female Trafficking is a major international issue today. The trade of human beings not only exploits women sexually (and to a much lesser degree men as well) but also exploits them as slave labor (1). The process of trading human beings is usually operated by large criminal organizations known as “trafficking rings.” These organizations often survive and thrive through corruption and greed – by bribing government officials to look the other way or to support their activities. The trade in human beings is a lucrative business in both developing countries and in major industrial nations (2). Traffickers mainly target women because they are known to be more affected by poverty, discrimination, unemployment, and lack of education.

Today, there are approximately 20 to 30 million slaves internationally. 11.4 million are women and young girls. According to the U.S. State Department, 600,000 to 800,000 people are being shipped around international borders every year and 70% of these people are women. Women of all statuses and ages can end up being victims of trafficking (3). Every day women are tricked into thinking they are applying for legitimate jobs, such as waitresses or dancers, and wind up being forced into prostitution and/or labor. Once in transit to promised jobs in foreign countries, they are often controlled through violence, drugs, and having their passports taken away. Women are sometimes also promised marriage, educational opportunities and better lives in exchange for their work. Most countries today are affected by the illegal distribution of human slaves, but the poorer the country, the more vulnerable the victims can be. The less education and employment there is in an area, the higher population of desperate women and children.

Human traffickers constantly move their victims from one place to another (4). A woman who is sent to the Ukraine could wind up in Thailand in a matter of months. The traffickers carefully distribute their victims around the world in order to disorient them so that they become more and more dependent on their trafficker. Traffickers often take the woman's legal documents to ensure her bondage. Women are thus affected both physically and psychologically (6). The women are not only beaten or abused but are usually also told that if they do not cooperate with orders, their families and loved ones will be harmed. Also the victims are usually taken to unfamiliar areas where they have a difficult time adjusting to the different cultures and languages, leading to further stress and emotional damage (3). These women often end up contracting sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV or AIDS, as well as drug poisonings from sedatives given to them to stop them from escaping. Thus, female trafficking is a major issue which permeates the modern world and this practice must be eradicated.

Most trafficking happens ways that are hard to detect. 137 countries today have laws against the trade of human beings, but the laws have proved ineffective (5). In response to this crisis, the United Nations developed an organization called the United Nations Global Initiative

to Fight Human Trafficking (UN-GIFT) (8). UN-GIFT has organized events such as World Day against Trafficking in Persons and fundraisers which raise awareness such as the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking (6). The United Nations is not the only organization trying to take a stand against trafficking. Organizations such as Coalition and Soroptimist advocate for the end of the mistreatment of women. The purpose of the CSW is to discuss how this issue of feminine degradation can be ultimately stopped. It is crucial to the citizens of the world to have a better feeling of security, therefore allowing women to have more confidence in the fields of jobs and education.

### Questions to Consider

1. What is the status of trafficking in your country today? Who is being trafficked and for what purpose? Who is involved in the trafficking? What has your country done to prevent trafficking?
2. Should the United Nations take a bigger stand against this issue? What can the member states of the United Nations do to enforce laws against trafficking?
3. How should CSW address the widespread female trafficking going on today? What strategies can CSW implement to prevent or stop trafficking?
4. What can individual states do to ensure the security of their female citizens?
5. What help can be given to women who are rescued from trafficking?

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**Committee:** Social, Humanitarian & Cultural (SOCHUM)

**Chairs:** Jacqueline Asuquo and Rupa Nallamothe

**Author:** Jacqueline Asuquo

### **Topic One: Media Censorship**

Welcome to the Social, Humanitarian & Cultural committee (SOCHUM). SOCHUM deals with social and humanitarian affairs and human rights for people all over the world. This committee will specifically focus on the problem of media censorship, which continues to be an international world problem. Media censorship is the suppression and control of information by governments or other powerful entities. Media censorship has many causes. Some governments claim that censorship is a security aid, which helps to hide and protect sensitive military or government information that could be helpful to terrorist groups. Anti-censorship protestors argue that censorship is a violation of human rights and limits a person's right to freedom of expression (as noted in the Preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) (4). Others argue that censorship is a tool of dictators and authoritarian governments to keep citizens from being informed about misdeeds perpetrated by the government. Many human rights organizations have been created in protest of media censorship.

Media censorship has proven to be a very difficult topic for the member states of the United Nations to agree upon. Many governments justify restrictions on free speech as protecting their religious or cultural heritage, for example. In March 2008, the United Nations Human Rights Council passed two resolutions concerning freedom of expression, but some human rights organizations have argued that the resolutions actually limit free expression because it seeks to limit racially or religiously abusive speech (for example, speech that defames certain racial or religious groups). (5) As of 2012, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) identified the top 10 most censored countries as (in order): Eritrea, North Korea, Syria, Iran, Equatorial Guinea, Uzbekistan, Burma, Saudi Arabia, Cuba, and Belarus (3). Nevertheless, the United Nations is dedicated to freedom of expression. Article 19 from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) says, "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers (5)."

One of the most well-known examples of media censorship is China. As China continues to expand its role in the global economy, its government maintains power by censoring the media. (2, 6). Although China's constitution calls for freedom of speech and the press, its regulations and Law on Guarding State Security are contradictory. In April 2001, the Chinese government made revisions to the Law on Guarding State Security, revising it so that it increases the requirements for internet companies to cooperate during investigations on leaked information. Over the years, the Chinese government-imposed internet sanctions have increased (6).

Your tasks as delegates to the SOCHUM committee are: 1) Review what the United Nations has done in the past regarding media censorship. 2) Discuss why media censorship is such a prevalent issue in the modern world. In preparation for committee, SOCHUM delegates

should evaluate similar opinions and policies of major regions; i.e. Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa, etc. Delegates should also assess major cases of media censorship and any current or previously implemented policies. Look at different positions on media censorship and how the issue has progressed. Most importantly have fun!

### **Questions to Consider**

1. What countries have a high level of media censorship? What countries have low levels of media censorship?
2. As a delegate from your individual country, how do you approach media censorship? Does your country believe that media censorship is good or bad?
3. Think about the effects of media censorship in your country. Has there been any backlash against government censorship?
4. What should the UN do about media censorship?
5. Does media censorship violate human rights? If so, how?
6. How should the UN address countries that censor the media?
7. How have new technologies (such as the internet) affected media censorship?
8. How has the use of propaganda affected media censorship?
9. What are the current and potential problems with media censorship?

If you have any questions or concerns at all, feel free to contact me at:

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**Committee:** Social, Humanitarian & Cultural (SOCHUM)

**Chairs:** Jacqueline Asuquo and Rupa Nallamothu

**Author:** Rupa Nallamothu

## **Topic Two: The Protection of Refugees in the Ukrainian Crisis**

Hello delegates and welcome to SOCHUM. In accordance with the United Nations Charter, SOCHUM will focus on agenda items relating to a range of humanitarian affairs and human rights issues that affect people all over the world. An important part of the work of the Committee will focus on the examination of human rights questions, as established in 2006 in the Human Rights Council (1). The second topic of this committee will concern the protection of refugees in the crisis of Ukraine. In article 1A of the 1951 Geneva Convention, a refugee is defined as a person who is outside his or her country and is unable to return to his or her country due to a fear of being prosecuted because of his or her race, ethnicity, and religious or political group. Many refugees only emigrate out of his or her country due to political or economic pressure in his or her own country (2).

Beginning in November 2013, there has been political and social unrest in Ukraine due to the ex- President Viktor Yanukovich's decision to pull out of an association deal with the European Union. Many allege that this decision was made due to political pressure. An estimated 45% of Ukrainian citizens wished to have closer ties with Europe. Due to their anger, the people of Ukraine reacted by protesting this decision through mass street protests which led to the eventual collapse of Yanukovich's administration. In March of 2014, the Russian Federation reacted to this political turmoil by taking the region of Crimea over from Ukraine (3). The Russian Federation's interest in the region of Crimea is primarily due to the fact that Crimea is Russia's connection to the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. Since the hostile takeover, the tensions between the new government in Kiev, Ukraine and the Crimean region have escalated to the point that a civil war seems imminent (4). This situation has led to a significant number of displaced persons, or refugees, from Ukraine to surrounding nations, particularly Russia and Romania. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, has reported that at least 42,000 people have been displaced. According to the regional representative for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Vincent Cocherel, the Ukrainian government has no central policy to address the refugee crisis, and most assistance comes from private citizens. Many Eastern Ukrainians now contemplate the possibility of fleeing the violence in Ukraine to become citizens of Russia. However it has become increasingly difficult for Ukrainians to cross the border due to heavy fighting at border points that government troops are trying to take back from rebels (5). In the first week of July, this year, six Russian regions have called a state of emergency regarding Ukrainian refugees. Due to this influx of refugees, those Russian regions have been unable to care for the needs of the majority of these refugees. For example, many refugees are living without shelter (6). As member states of the General Assembly of the United Nations, it is the duty of this committee to resolve the terrible circumstances facing these refugees to the best of our ability.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at my email:  
**[rupa.nallamothu.2016@holton-arms.edu](mailto:rupa.nallamothu.2016@holton-arms.edu)**.

### Questions to Consider

1. How can we resolve this issue without infringing on the national sovereignty of Ukraine or Russia?
2. What is the position of your country on refugee protection?
3. If your country is part of a larger political or military organization such as NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization ) or the European Union, what is that organization's policy on refugee protection?
4. How can the UN attempt to control the recent influx of refugees into Russia?
5. How can the UN improve border safety between Russia and Ukraine?
6. What steps can be taken to ensure the safety of refugees in the region?

### Suggested Links

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**Committee:** Disarmament and International Security Committee

**Chairs:** Shanzay Khan and Ksenia Ovcharenko

**Author:** Shanzay Khan

### **Topic One: International Detention Facilities**

Welcome to the DISEC, the Disarmament and International Security Committee of the United Nations. DISEC “deals with the disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime.” This committee will focus specifically on the problem of international detention facilities.

For over fifty years, the United Nations has worked to reform the criminal justice system so that it can operate more effectively and humanely. According to the Standard Minimal Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, adopted by the First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in 1955, penal institutions across the world are encouraged to uphold a universal standard of equality and humane treatment of their inmates (4). Due to the great variety of legal, economic, and social conditions around the world, the international prison standards set forth currently are not intended to infringe on the sovereignty of individual nations, but instead to ensure a minimum level of comfort and security for prisoners worldwide. In the span of 50 years, the UN has developed a set of basic principles covering such areas as the independence of the judiciary, protection of victims, alternatives to imprisonment, police use of force, legal assistance and extradition (5). The aforementioned 1955 conventions establish three major tenets for all penal institutions to follow: 1) a zero discrimination policy 2) regulated disciplinary measures 3) adequate accommodation and sanitation. Furthermore, to better organize penal institutions, current UN regulations call for separation of prisoners, distinguishing between juveniles and adults, untried and convicted, civil and criminal offenders, and, when possible, between males and females (4).

Despite vast improvements, conflict and political instability often result in the neglect and even denial of the rights of the prisoner. Many countries maintain their sovereign right to detain and interrogate criminals at independently held detention facilities. Frequently, detainees held at these locations are high-value prisoners such as suspected terrorists and war criminals. Perhaps the most widely known of these facilities is the United States’ military facility at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba (2). While this prison is one of the many international centers featured in this debate, accusations of human rights violations and breaches of international law it has faced are representative of the kind of issues the delegates will need to address. Even within lower ranking detention facilities, a multitude of issues arise in the face of poor funding and organization. Prisons take the lowest priority in post-conflict environments; consequently, prisoners in these situations suffer from overcrowding, lack of food, poor sanitation and medical care, and abusive management (1).

In the face of war and political strife, torture, hostile interrogations, and neglect remain concerns for the international community. The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) stated that over half of the 635 detainees experienced ill treatment and even torture at the hands of the Afghan National Police (3). Incidents such as these have come to light with increasing frequency in war torn and developing countries around the world. In an attempt to

reform interrogation and detainee treatment practices, the UN-mandated International Security Assistance Force implemented a detention monitoring program, working in collaboration with local Afghani authorities (3). Similarly, UN Peacekeepers have worked with national prison systems to/ providing counsel on institutional restructuring, and to build partnerships with governmental and nongovernmental organizations (1). Initiatives designed to work with national governments, providing training and inspection, are essential in the UN's mission to combat abuse at all levels of the criminal justice system.

### **Questions to Consider**

1. What issues does your own country face with its domestic detention facilities? Off shore immigration detention facilities? High level security detention facilities for international threats?
2. How has your country dealt with its prisoners in its past? Has it recently come under international scrutiny or criticism?
3. What reforms does your country find most pressing in light of its political situation? Educational opportunities? Labor conditions?
4. How can UN bodies be used to monitor current detention facilities? (If none currently exist, feel free to create one). Does your country believe in UN condemnation of detention facilities which fail to meet international standards?
5. Would your country consider working with UN Peacekeeping? Has it in the past?

### **Tips for Research and Debate**

1. Use the UN website! It is one of your best resources. Look at current or past legislation.
2. Try to figure out who are your best allies, and what their stance on the issue is. You will most likely agree.
3. Research your own countries prison systems. Do they abide by most standards?
4. If you have any questions, email me at [shanzay.khan.2015@holton-arms.edu](mailto:shanzay.khan.2015@holton-arms.edu)

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**Committee:** Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)

**Chairs:** Ksenia Ovcharenko and Shanzay Khan

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## **Topic Two: Chemical Weapons**

Welcome to DISEC, the Disarmament and International Security Committee of the United Nations! DISEC is the United Nations committee that is tasked to ensure peace and security around the world. This committee will focus specifically on stopping the proliferation and use of chemical weapons internationally.

Along with nuclear arms, chemical weapons (or Chemical Warfare Agents – CWA) comprise one of the most gruesome types of weapons known to man. Spread through the air, these weapons can kill thousands indiscriminately, using toxins that burn off the skin, destroy the lungs, and attack the central nervous system, causing agonizing death both sudden and lingering, depending on the agent and the degree of exposure. Examples of these agents include Nerve Agents, Mustard gas, Hydrogen Cyanide, Tear Gases and Arsines. Chemical weapons, including chlorine and mustard gas, were first used during World War I.<sup>i</sup> The use of chemical weapons in World War I caused horrific casualties. Leading to the Geneva Protocol in 1925, which was created to prohibit the use of chemical weapons in warfare among countries. The Protocol banned the use of “asphyxiating gas, or any other kind of gas, liquids, substances or similar materials” during war. Although widely adopted, the US Congress did not ratify this Protocol until 1975. During the Cold War, both the United States and the Soviet Union (the precursor of modern Russia) stockpiled huge quantities of chemical weapons. Nevertheless, the ban on chemical weapons held from the end of World War I and they have only infrequently since that time.<sup>ii</sup>

In recent decades, the stockpiling and use of chemical weapons has been noted in both Iraq and Syria. The Iraqi dictator Saddam Husain used chemical weapons both against Iranian forces and against Iraqi Kurds during the Iran-Iraq War of the 1980s. Iraq was forced to destroy its chemical arsenal after the US led war against Iraq in 1992 and no chemical weapons were found in Iraq after the US invasion of 2003.<sup>iii</sup> Most recently, the Syrian government was known to have used chemical weapons during its civil war in 2013, leading to an ongoing international effort to destroy Syria’s chemical weapons stockpile.<sup>iv</sup>

The effort to decrease the danger of chemical weapons has been ongoing. The United Nations sponsors the Conference on Disarmament, which in 1992 signed the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), in order to decrease and eliminate stockpiles of chemical weapons internationally. The CWC still aims to eliminate today’s chemical weapon stockpiles, along with the help of other NGOs, such as the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). Although 70,000 tons of chemical agents have been destroyed internationally and the countries that are involved in chemical stockpiling have decreased dramatically, there are still many nations that have large stores of these weapons.<sup>v</sup> Currently, a major international fear is that chemical weapons will fall into the hands of terrorist organizations and other “non-state actors,” such as the Sunni Muslim extremist group ISIS, which operates in both Syria and Iraq.<sup>vi</sup>

One of the main tasks of DISEC is hence to seek ways. To prevent governmental and non-governmental groups from accumulating and using chemical weapons.

### Questions to Consider

1. Is military interference in the Middle East necessary to fully eliminate chemical weapons stockpiling and use? Will this interference infringe upon national sovereignty and is such interference acceptable?
2. How can NGOs, or Non-Governmental Organizations, help the United Nations solve this problem?
3. What kind of actions should DISEC propose if the governments with chemical stockpiles do not stop this production?
4. What should the United Nations do in order to avoid future problems with chemical stockpiling?

Please email me if you have any questions at **ksenia.ovcharenko.2016@holton-arms.edu**.

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